

1 **Quantifying the role of the eddy transfer coefficient in simulating the**
2 **response of the Southern Ocean to enhanced westerlies in a coarse-**
3 **resolution model**

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23 **Key Points:**

- 24 • The response of the Southern Ocean to enhanced westerlies simulated with
25 stratification-dependent eddy transfer coefficient is closest to the reference.
 - 26 • The vertical variation and temporal variation in the stratification-dependent
27 eddy transfer coefficient are the primary factors to simulating the eddy
28 compensation.
 - 29 • The eddy transfer coefficient impacts the Eulerian circulation through the
30 density slope, changing the response of the Southern Ocean to enhanced
31 westerlies.
- 32

33 **Abstract**

34 The ability of a coarse-resolution ocean model to simulate the response to enhanced
35 westerlies in the Southern Ocean is evaluated as a function of the eddy transfer
36 coefficient (κ) commonly used to parameterize the bolus velocities induced by
37 unresolved eddies (Gent and McWilliams, 1990). By implementing different eddy
38 transfer coefficients, it is shown that a coefficient κ that is stratification-dependent and
39 varies in space and time leads to an enhanced response of the eddy-induced meridional
40 overturning circulation (MOC), which is close to the ratio obtained from a reference
41 eddy-resolving simulation with the same model. The compensation caused by the
42 intensified response of the eddy-induced MOC in experiments with either constantly
43 uniform or spatially varying eddy transfer coefficients is consistently smaller. The
44 enhanced eddy compensation from the experiment with stratification-dependent κ can
45 be traced to changes in the vertical derivative of κ in time. Changes in κ also affect the
46 response of the residual Southern Ocean MOC through its Eulerian component. In the
47 stratification-dependent case, the increased meridional gradient of κ during 1998-2007
48 compared to 1960-1969 decreases the meridional gradient of the density slope, which
49 in turn dampens the meridional gradient of sea surface height and therefore leads to a
50 weaker response of the Eulerian circulation and of the residual circulation.

51

52 **Plain Language Summary**

53 The Southern Ocean is full of mesoscale eddies with vortices on the scale of 10-100

54 km, which play a major role in transporting heat, salt, nutrients, and pollutants. To
55 simulate the response of the Southern Ocean to enhanced westerlies due to global
56 warming and ozone depletion in a coarse-resolution model, the eddy transfer coefficient
57 is crucial, which is a key parameter in the parametrization of the mesoscale eddies. We
58 find the stratification-dependent eddy transfer coefficient with both temporal and
59 spatial variation has the closest simulation of the Southern Ocean response compared
60 to the result of a high-resolution model. And it is the vertical variation and temporal
61 variation in that scheme play the primary role in simulating the response of mesoscale
62 eddies. There is also a secondary influence of the eddy transfer coefficient on simulating
63 the response of the Southern Ocean by changing the density slope and corresponding
64 meridional pressure gradient, which drives the large-scale circulation in the Southern
65 Ocean.

66

67 **1. Introduction**

68 The circulation in the Southern Ocean is connected through the upper and lower cells
69 of the meridional overturning circulation (MOC), along with the Antarctic Circumpolar
70 Current (ACC). In the Southern Ocean, the upper cell of the zonal mean MOC is driven
71 by the upwelling of North Atlantic deep waters and northward surface Ekman transport
72 from the Southern Hemisphere westerlies (Speer et al., 2000). During the period from
73 1980 to 2010, the westerlies shifted poleward and intensified by ~20%, as shown by
74 direct satellite observations and atmospheric reanalysis (Swart and Fyfe, 2012;

75 Bracegirdle et al., 2013; Farneti et al., 2015; Gent, 2016).

76

77 In eddy-resolving ocean models, the response of the MOC to enhanced westerlies is
78 found to be partially compensated (~50%) by the mesoscale eddies (Marshall and
79 Radko, 2003; Hallberg and Gnanadesikan 2006; Meredith et al., 2012; Bishop et al.,
80 2016; Gent, 2016; Paulsen et al., 2018). In non-eddy-resolving ocean models, an
81 increase in the zonal westerlies will only strengthen the Eulerian MOC across the ACC
82 if a parameterization of the eddy-induced compensation is not included. This intensified
83 Eulerian MOC then brings more water from the carbon-rich deeper ocean to the surface
84 of the Southern Ocean, which in turn means that the ocean takes up less carbon dioxide
85 and that the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is overestimated in coupled models that
86 use coarse ocean models without the parameterization of eddy compensation (Swart et
87 al., 2014; Gent, 2016). It is therefore necessary to parameterize the eddy compensation
88 in the ocean component of non-eddy-resolving climate ocean models.

89

90 In his review article, Gent (2016) argues that the eddy transfer coefficient commonly
91 used to parameterize the bolus velocities induced by eddies (Gent and McWilliams,
92 1990, hereafter referred to as GM) must be variable in space and time to properly model
93 the eddy compensation. His conclusion is based on the analysis of multiple non-eddy-
94 resolving simulations with different ocean models and different expressions for the GM
95 eddy transfer coefficient (Hofmann and Morales-Maqueda, 2011; Gent and
96 Danabasoglu, 2011; Farneti and Gent, 2011; Farneti et al., 2015). Consequently, the

97 impact of the eddy transfer coefficient's choice on the MOC's response could not be
98 quantified in a consistent manner by Gent (2016).

99

100 In this paper, we quantify the eddy-induced and Eulerian MOCs' response to increased
101 westerlies and to choices in the eddy transfer coefficient using a single non-eddy-
102 resolving ocean model. An eddy-resolving configuration is used as the reference. In
103 addition, we also investigate how the eddy transfer coefficient affects the Eulerian
104 MOC as the previous studies mostly focused on the influence of eddy compensation.
105 Specifically, we look at the impact of three widely used parametrizations of the eddy
106 transfer coefficient. The first is the simplest and is constant in space and time (Gent and
107 McWilliams, 1990). The second is based on the buoyancy frequency (Ferreira et al.,
108 2005), which provides spatial and temporal variability (Danabasoglu et al., 2009). The
109 third is dependent on eddy length and time scales provided by the eddy growth rate, the
110 Rossby radius of deformation and the Rhines scale (Eden and Greatbatch, 2008).

111

112 The organization of the paper is as follows. In section 2, we describe the coarse and
113 eddy-resolving ocean models, the eddy transfer coefficients, and how the MOC is
114 decomposed into eddy-induced and mean Eulerian components. In section 3, the
115 responses of the circulation to the intensified westerlies in the eddy-resolving model
116 and coarse resolution experiments with different eddy transfer coefficients are
117 discussed. Section 4 describes the influence of the eddy transfer coefficient on the eddy-
118 induced MOC in the Southern Ocean. Section 5 reviews the impact of the eddy transfer

119 coefficient on the Eulerian MOC. A summary and discussion of our main results are
120 provided in the last section.

121

122 **2. Models and methods**

123 2.1 The coarse ocean model

124 The coarse ocean model used in this paper was developed at the State Key Laboratory
125 of Numerical Modeling for Atmospheric Sciences and Geophysical Fluid Dynamics
126 (LASG) through the Institute of Atmospheric Physics (IAP). The model is named the
127 LASG/IAP Climate System Ocean Model version 3 (LICOM3), which is coupled to the
128 Community Ice Code version 4 (CICE4) through the NCAR flux coupler version 7
129 (CPL7). LICOM3 has approximately 1° of horizontal resolution and 30 vertical levels.
130 In the top 150 m, the resolution is uniform, with a grid spacing of 10 m, while the
131 spacing is uneven below 150 m. The model used a tripole grid (Murray, 1996) with two
132 poles in the northern hemisphere, which are located at 65°N , 30°W and 65°N , 150°E ,
133 respectively. The tidal mixing parameterization scheme of St. Laurent et al. (2012) is
134 implemented. The coarse resolution model is a standard Coordinated Ocean-Ice
135 Reference Experiments (CORE) II experiment, forced by the interannually varying
136 atmospheric forcing and bulk formula developed by Large and Yeager (2009) with 6-
137 hour interval. The experiments (hereafter referred to as LICOML) here are integrated
138 124 years (two 62-year CORE-II cycles), and only the second cycle is used for analysis.

139

140 2.2 The high-resolution ocean model

141 The high-resolution ocean model used here is the eddy-resolving version of LICOM2.0
142 (Liu et al., 2012), with a $0.1^\circ \times 0.1^\circ$ horizontal grid and 55 vertical levels. In the upper
143 300 m, 36 uneven levels are used, and every layer's thickness is less than 10 m.
144 Biharmonic viscosity and diffusivity schemes are used in the momentum and tracer
145 equations, respectively. The model domain covers 79°S - 66°N , excluding the Arctic
146 Ocean. There is a buffer zone at 66°N where temperature and salinity are restored to
147 climatologically monthly temperature and salinity from the Levitus data (Levitus and
148 Boyer, 1994). After the 12-year spin-up, a 60-year (1948-2007) ocean only CORE II
149 experiment was conducted using the daily CORE forcing (Large and Yeager, 2004),
150 which is called LICOMH hereafter. For details of the model performance, please refer
151 to Yu et al. (2012) and Liu et al. (2014).

152

153 2.3 The eddy transfer coefficient

154 To evaluate the influence of different eddy transfer coefficients, five experiments have
155 been conducted (listed in Table 1) using the coarse resolution LICOM3. The first two
156 experiments use constant eddy transfer coefficients κ of $500 \text{ m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ and $1000 \text{ m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$,
157 which are referred to as K500 and K1000, respectively. The next two experiments use
158 an eddy transfer coefficient scheme based on the buoyancy frequency as described in
159 Ferreira et al. 2005 (referred to as FMH hereafter):

$$160 \quad \kappa = \frac{N^2}{N_{mld}^2} \kappa_{ref} \quad (1)$$

161 where κ is the eddy transfer coefficient, κ_{ref} is constant and set to $4000 \text{ m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$, N^2
162 is the buoyancy frequency, and N_{mld}^2 is the buoyancy frequency at the bottom of the
163 mixed layer depth. The eddy transfer coefficient κ in the FMH4D experiment is
164 computed using the instantaneous buoyancy frequency and therefore varies in space
165 and time. In the FMH3D experiment, the eddy transfer coefficient κ is computed using
166 the time averaged buoyancy frequency from the FMH4D experiment and therefore
167 varies only in space.

168 **Table 1.** *Descriptions of the Experiments in This Study*

Experiment	Resolutions (°)	κ (m^2/s)	Periods
LICOMH	0.1	N/A	1949-2007
K500	1	500	1948-2009
K1000	1	1000	1948-2009
FMH3D	1	$A_I(N^2/N_{ref}^2)$	1948-2009
FMH4D	1	$A_I(N^2/N_{ref}^2)$	1948-2009
EG	1	$\alpha\sigma_{x,y,z}L_{x,y,z}^2$	1948-2009

169
170 The fifth experiment uses an eddy transfer coefficient κ based on time and length scales
171 derived from the eddy growth rate, the Rossby radius of deformation and the Rhines
172 scale (Eden and Greatbatch, 2008). The experiment is called EG hereafter, following
173 the abbreviation of the reference. The eddy transfer coefficient is computed as:

$$174 \quad \kappa = \alpha\sigma_{x,y,z}L_{x,y,z}^2 \quad (2)$$

175 where σ denotes an inverse eddy time scale that is given by the eddy growth rate; L is
176 an eddy length scale, which is taken as the minimum of the local Rossby radius of

177 deformation and the Rhines scale; and α is a constant parameter of order one (see
 178 Eden and Greatbatch (2008) and Eden et al. (2009) for details).

179

180 The corresponding eddy-induced velocity (Gent and McWilliams, 1990) is as follows:

$$181 \quad u^* = \left(\kappa \frac{\rho_x}{\rho_z}\right)_z = (\kappa S_x)_z \quad (3)$$

$$182 \quad v^* = \left(\kappa \frac{\rho_y}{\rho_z}\right)_z = (\kappa S_y)_z \quad (4)$$

183 where u^* and v^* are the zonal and meridional eddy-induced velocity, respectively; κ is
 184 the eddy transfer coefficient; and ρ_x , ρ_y , and ρ_z are the partial differential of density
 185 in the zonal, meridional, and vertical direction, respectively. ρ_x/ρ_z and ρ_y/ρ_z
 186 represent the zonal and meridional density slope (S_x and S_y), respectively. Because of
 187 the vertical variation of κ , the velocity can be decomposed into two terms. For the
 188 meridional velocity:

$$189 \quad v^* = (\kappa S_y)_z = \kappa S_{yz} + S_y \kappa_z \quad (5)$$

190 where κS_{yz} represents the effect of κ on the velocity and $S_y \kappa_z$ represents the effect
 191 of the vertical variation of κ . For convenience, κS_{yz} is designated as the spatial
 192 structure term (SS) and $S_y \kappa_z$ is referred to as the vertical variation term (VV).

193

194 2.4 Decomposition of MOC from LICOMH

195 The residual MOC is the total MOC, which consists of both the eddy-induced MOC
 196 and the Eulerian MOC. The eddy-induced MOC in LICOMH is based on the deviation
 197 from the time-mean MOC following Poulsen et al. (2018). As in previous studies, we

198 perform the analysis in density coordinates (e.g., Hallberg and Gnanadesikan, 2006;
 199 Munday et al., 2013; Bishop et al., 2016; Poulsen et al., 2018). The time-mean residual
 200 MOC is given by:

$$201 \quad \bar{\psi}(\theta, \sigma) = \overline{\oint_0^{2\pi} \int_{\eta_B(\phi, \theta)}^{\eta(\phi, \theta, t)} v(\phi, \theta, z, t) dz R \cos(\theta) d\phi} \quad (6)$$

202 where ϕ, θ and z are the usual spherical coordinates, R is the Earth's radius, and σ
 203 is the potential density. η_B is the depth of the ocean bottom and $\eta(\phi, \theta, t)$ is the depth
 204 of the potential density surface, which varies in both space and time. $\overline{(\)}$ denotes the
 205 averaging operator with respect to time.

206

207 The decomposition here can also be applied to the velocity and density field, leading to
 208 a time-mean field and its deviation. Taking the meridional velocity as an example, the
 209 decomposition is as follows:

$$210 \quad v(\phi, \theta, z, t) = \bar{v}(\phi, \theta, z) + v^*(\phi, \theta, z, t) \quad (7)$$

211 where \bar{v} is the time-mean field and v^* is the deviation. The isopycnal streamfunction
 212 derived from the time-mean field represents the Eulerian mean overturning circulation
 213 and is given by:

$$214 \quad \psi(\theta, \sigma) = \oint_0^{2\pi} \int_{\eta_B(\phi, \theta)}^{\bar{\eta}(\phi, \theta)} \bar{v}(\phi, \theta, z) dz R \cos(\theta) d\phi \quad (8)$$

215 where $\bar{\eta}$ is the height of the time-mean density surface $\bar{\sigma}$. The difference between the
 216 time-mean residual MOC $\bar{\psi}$ and the Eulerian MOC ψ is the eddy-induced MOC:

$$217 \quad \psi^* = \bar{\psi} - \psi \quad (9)$$

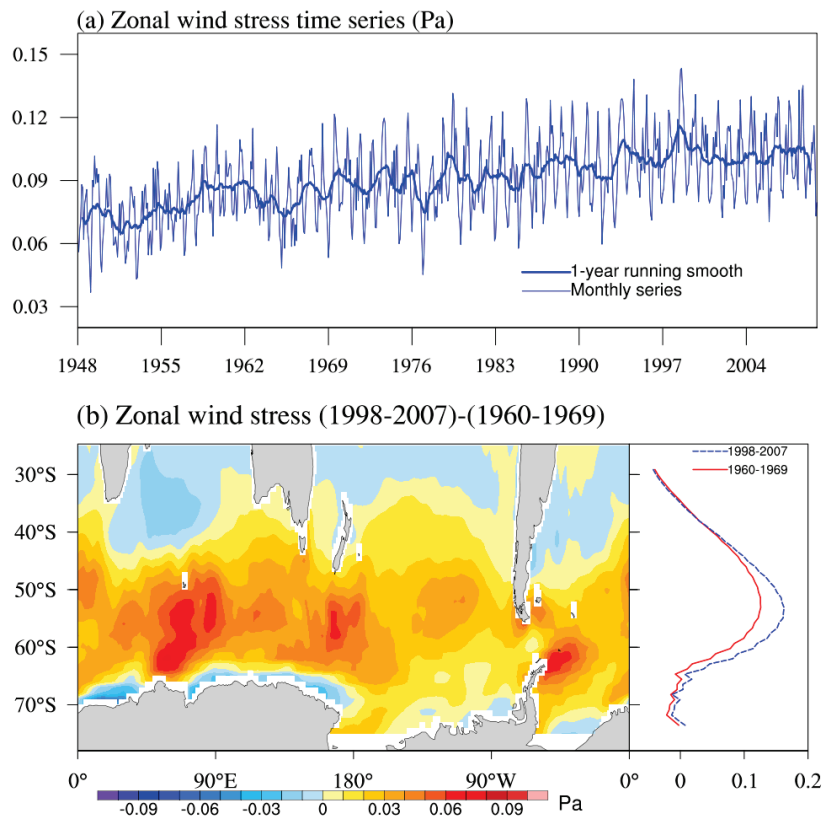
218 which captures the motion that varies on a temporal time scale shorter than the time
 219 span of the applied time-averaging operator. As in Poulsen et al. (2018), we use monthly

220 averaged outputs to compute the eddy-induced circulation.

221

222 **3. Responses to enhanced westerlies in the Southern Ocean**

223 Studies have shown that there have been enhanced westerlies in the Southern Ocean
224 during previous decades (Swart and Fyfe, 2012; Bracegirdle et al., 2013; Farneti et al.,
225 2015; Gent, 2016). These enhanced westerlies are also present in the wind stress used
226 to force the high- and low-resolution experiments. Figure 1a shows the monthly and
227 annual running mean zonal wind stress averaged in the Southern Ocean (30-60°S and
228 0-360°E) for LICOML. Both curves indicate a significant increasing trend from 1948
229 to 2007 with a magnitude of about 0.005 N/m² per decade. The wind stress difference
230 between 1998-2007 and 1960-1969 (Fig. 1b) indicates that there is general
231 enhancement of zonal wind stress in the Southern Ocean with the maximum value of
232 0.1 Pa. Moreover, the zonal average wind stress between 30-90°S displays a 28.9%
233 increase of the peak value from 1998-2007 to 1960-1969. The significant multidecadal
234 intensification of westerlies in the Southern Ocean may be driven partially by ozone
235 depletion and global warming (Thompson and Solomon, 2002; Marshall, 2003; Miller
236 et al., 2016). The variation of wind stress from LICOMH in the Southern Ocean is same
237 as that of LICOML, but with a slightly weaker magnitude.



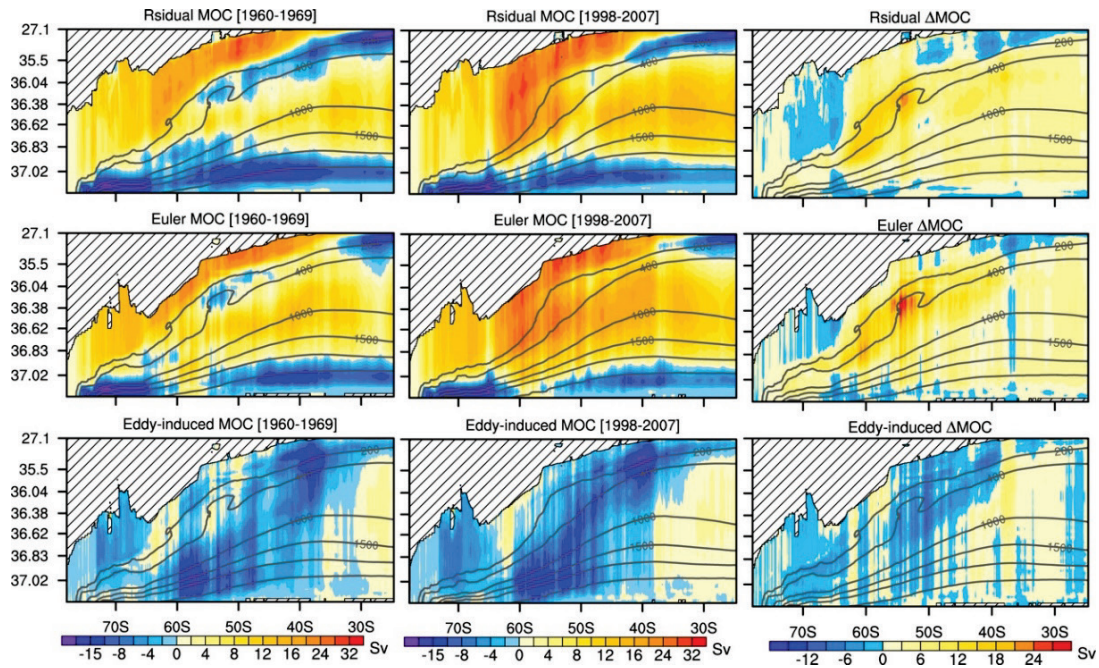
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239 **Figure 1.** (a) The time series of the zonal wind stress averaged in the Southern Ocean
 240 (30°S~60°S). The thick blue line is the one-year running mean. The left panel of (b) is
 241 the differences of zonal wind stress between 1998-2007 and 1960-1969 and the right
 242 panel is the zonal mean of the zonal wind stress during 1960-1969 (red solid) and 1998-
 243 2007 (blue dash).

244

245 Because the response of the Eulerian MOC in the upper cell is compensated by eddy-
 246 induced MOC (Hallberg and Gnanadesikan 2006; Meredith and Hogg 2006; Meredith
 247 et al. 2012), eddy-resolving model outputs are necessary to quantify the eddy
 248 compensation and evaluate the coarse resolution experiments. LICOMH is used here as
 249 a reference. The top panels of Figure 2 show the residual MOC in isopycnal vertical
 250 coordinates in the Southern Ocean. The residual MOC during 1998-2007 (Fig. 2a) has

251 an average strength of 12.05 Sv in the upper cell between 1035.0 and 1036.85 kg/m^3
 252 and between 35°S to 60°S, while it is 5.9 Sv during 1960-1969 (Fig. 2b). There is a
 253 general about 6 Sv increase in MOC in the Southern Ocean from 1960-1969 to 1998-
 254 2007 (Fig. 2c).



255 **Figure 2.** The top panel is the MOC of residual currents during periods of 1960-1969,
 256 1998-2007 and their difference for LICOMH in the isopycnal coordinate, respectively.
 257 The gray lines represent the zonal averaged isobaths in isopycnal coordinates. The
 258 middle and bottom panels are same as the top one, but for the Eulerian and eddy-
 259 induced MOCs. (Unit: Sv)

261
 262 For the Eulerian MOC in LICOMH, the enhancement is larger than that of the residual
 263 MOC, at a strength of 7.34 Sv (Fig. 2f). This difference between the residual and the
 264 Eulerian MOC is due to the compensation of the eddy-induced MOC, as Figure 2 shows
 265 that the circulation direction of the eddy-induced MOC (Fig. 2g, i) is opposite to that

266 of the Eulerian MOC (Fig. 2d, e) and the eddy-induced MOC strengthens in most
267 regions of the Southern Ocean (Fig. 2i). The strength of the oppositely directed eddy-
268 induced MOC (referred to as eddy compensation) is 1.11 Sv, taking up to 15.1% of the
269 response of the Eulerian MOC from 1960-1969 to 1998-2007.

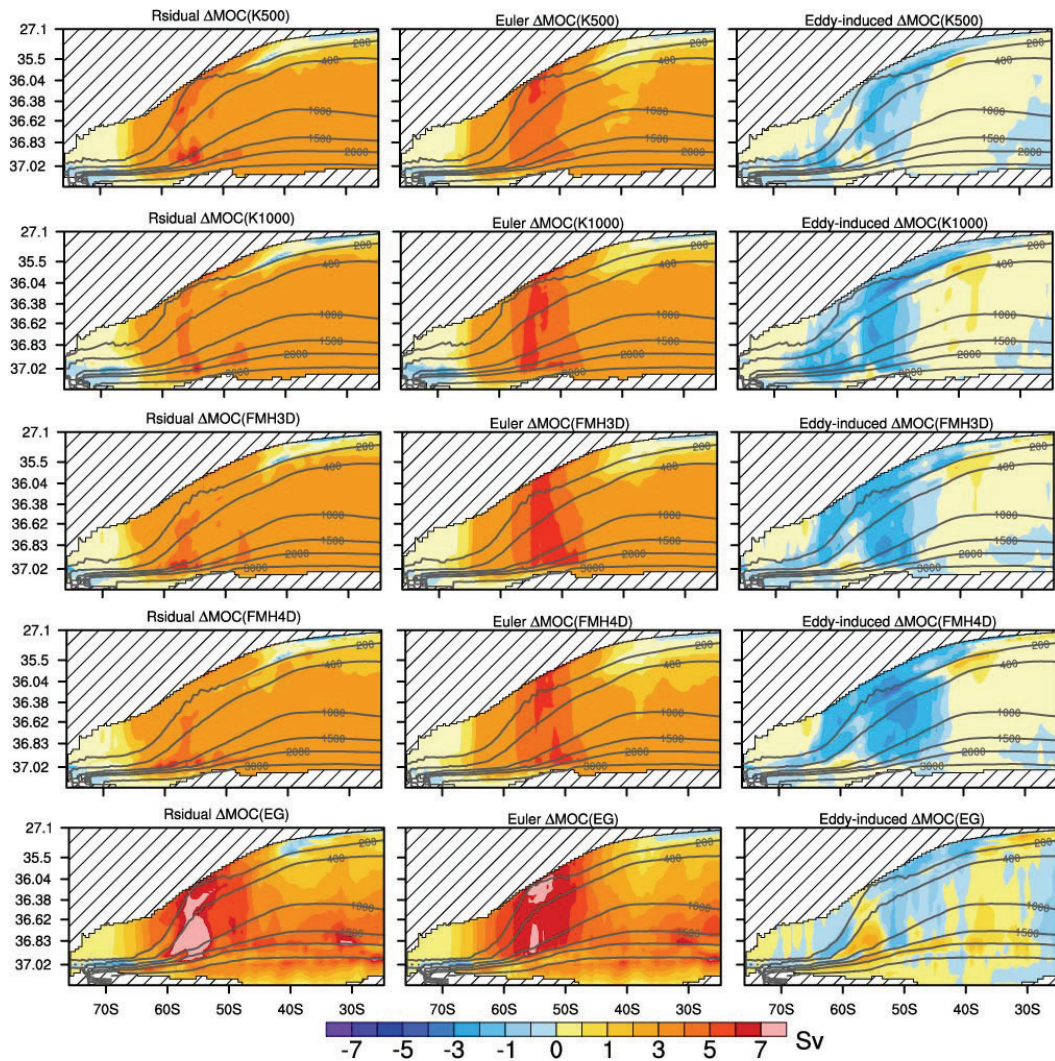
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271 For the low-resolution ocean model, the eddy transfer coefficient plays a key role in
272 simulating the eddy compensation (Hofmann and Morales-Maqueda, 2011; Gent and
273 Danabasoglu, 2011; Farneti and Gent, 2011; Farneti et al., 2015; Gent, 2016). It is
274 examined in the five coarse-resolution ocean model experiments with different eddy
275 transfer coefficients (i.e., K500, K1000, FMH3D, FMH4D, and EG). The five different
276 eddy transfer coefficients are the constant eddy transfer coefficients ($500 \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ and 1000
277 $\text{m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$), stratification dependent spatial various coefficient, stratification dependent
278 spatiotemporal variant coefficient, and the time-length scale dependent spatiotemporal
279 variant coefficient.

280

281 The differences of the residual MOC between 1998-2007 and 1960-1969 in all the five
282 experiments (left panels in Fig. 3) are smaller than that of the Eulerian MOC (middle
283 panels in Fig. 3), which is caused by the enhancement of the anti-clock wised eddy-
284 induced MOC in all the experiments(right panels in Fig. 3).However, comparing the
285 five experiments, the intensification of the residual MOC from FMH4D is the weakest
286 (left panels in Fig. 3). Because the residual MOC is the sum of both the Eulerian MOC
287 and the eddy-induced MOC, there are two factors underlying this result. On the one

288 hand, the Eulerian MOC (middle panels in Fig. 3) shows that FMH4D and K500 have
289 slightly weaker enhancement than other three experiments, even though all experiments
290 exhibit similar enhancements of the Eulerian MOC. On the other hand, FMH4D has the
291 largest enhancement and region of the anticlockwise eddy-induced MOC (right panels
292 in Fig. 3), compared with other four experiments. Comparing differences of five
293 experiments in the residual MOC, the Eulerian MOC and the eddy-induced MOC, the
294 residual MOC and the eddy-induced MOC share similar feature with FMH4D having
295 smallest clockwise circulation response to the enhanced westerlies, which implies that
296 the response of the eddy-induced MOC makes a major contribution to the response of
297 the residual MOC.



298

299 **Figure 3.** The top panel is the difference of the residual, Eulerian and eddy-induced
 300 MOCs between 1960-1969 and 1998-2007 for the K500 experiment. The gray lines
 301 represent the zonal averaged isobaths in isopycnal coordinates. The other panels from
 302 the second to the bottom row are for the K1000, FMH3D, FMH4D and EG experiments.
 303 (Unit: Sv)

304

305 To quantify the difference among the five experiments, the mean value in area from
 306 1035.0 to 1036.85 kg/m³ and from 35°S to 60°S is defined as the strength of the upper
 307 cell. The strengths of the responses between 1960-1969 and 1998-2007 for the residual,

308 Eulerian and eddy-induced MOC are listed in Table 2. For LICOMH, the enhanced
309 eddy compensation is 1.11 Sv, which accounts for up to 15.1% of the change in the
310 Eulerian MOC. Among the five coarse resolution experiments, FMH4D experiment has
311 the largest enhanced eddy compensation of 0.63 Sv, taking up to 14.5% of the Eulerian
312 MOC response, which is closest to the reference LICOMH, while the eddy
313 compensations from K500, K1000, FMH3D and EG are 0.07 Sv, 0.18 Sv, 0.27 and 0.22
314 Sv, which take up to 1.7%, 4.1%, 5.9% and 5.5% of their Eulerian MOC response,
315 respectively. This result indicates that both spatial and temporal variances of the eddy
316 transfer coefficient are crucial to the eddy compensation. Furthermore, the contrast
317 between FMH3D and FMH4D also indicates that the spatial variant eddy transfer
318 coefficient is not enough to simulate the whole compensation effect. Compared with
319 FMH4D, the spatial variance only makes 40.7% contribution to the eddy compensation
320 in terms of the strength of the eddy compensation.

321 **Table 2.** *Differences of the Strength for the Residual, Eulerian and Eddy-induced MOC*
322 *Between 1960-1969 and 1998-2007 Among the High-resolution Model and Five Coarse*
323 *Resolution Experiments.*

Experiments	Residual	Eulerian	Eddy (Ratio)
LICOMH	6.15	7.34	1.11 (15.1%)
K500	4.12	4.19	0.07 (1.7%)
K1000	4.25	4.44	0.18 (4.1%)
FMH3D	4.33	4.59	0.27 (5.9%)
FMH4D	3.69	4.33	0.63 (14.5%)
EG	3.79	4.01	0.22 (5.5%)

324 *Note.* The strength is the mean value from 1035.0 to 1036.85 kg/m³ and from 35°S to

325 60°S. The values in the bracket are the ratios of the eddy-induced MOC to the Eulerian
326 MOC. (Unit: Sv)

327

328 Based on the comparison among the residual, Eulerian and eddy-induced circulations
329 from five different eddy transfer coefficient experiments and LICOMH as reference,
330 responses of the residual MOC from LICOML experiments are mainly attributed to the
331 eddy compensation, even though the Eulerian MOC also makes contribution to it.
332 Besides, the spatiotemporal variation of the eddy transfer coefficient, especially the
333 temporal variation of the coefficient, is proved to be the more crucial factor in the
334 coarse-resolution model LICOML to simulating the eddy compensation. However, how
335 the spatiotemporal variation of the eddy transfer coefficient affects the eddy
336 compensation and why temporal variation is more important still need more analysis.

337

338 **4. Influence on the eddy compensation**

339 As shown in Section 3, the response of the residual MOC is weaker than that of the
340 Eulerian MOC mainly due to the intensified eddy compensation. There are two factors
341 underlying this phenomenon. First, the eddy-induced MOC is anti-clockwise, which is
342 opposite to the direction of the Eulerian MOC. Second, the anti-clockwise eddy-
343 induced MOC become stronger with enhancing westerlies. We find that the eddy
344 compensation from the FMH4D experiment is closest to the high-resolution result,
345 while the other experiments display weaker eddy compensation. Next, we determine

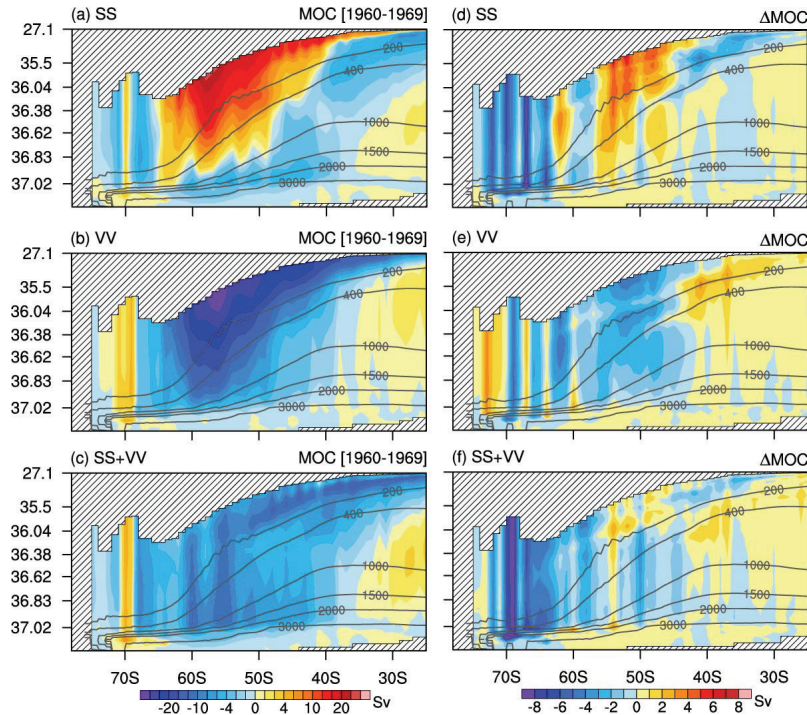
346 why the eddy transfer coefficient from the FMH4D experiment leads to stronger
347 enhancement of anti-clockwise eddy-induced MOC.

348

349 4.1 The attribution of the eddy-induced MOC

350 The influence of the spatially variant eddy transfer coefficient can be decomposed into
351 two terms that represent the effect of spatial structure (SS) and the effect of the vertical
352 variation (VV), as detailed in section 2.3. Following the decomposition, Figure 4a and
353 4b show the SS term- and VV term-induced MOC from the FMH4D experiment during
354 1960-1969, respectively. The effects of the SS term and VV term are opposite in most
355 regions of the upper cell, especially above 1000 m. The SS term displays a clockwise
356 MOC above 1000 m between 40°S to 65°S, which enhances the clockwise Eulerian
357 MOC. However, the VV term shows an anti-clockwise MOC in the region of the upper
358 cell, which compensates the Eulerian MOC. When comparing the two terms (SS and
359 VV) with the eddy-induced MOC, the VV term plays the major role in the eddy-induced
360 MOC, because the sum of the two terms displays an anti-clockwise MOC in the upper
361 cell region (Fig. 4c), which compensates the Eulerian MOC. In addition, the right panels
362 in Figure 4 show the corresponding multidecadal response of the two terms induced
363 MOC and their sum. The multidecadal responses exhibit intensification in the two terms
364 induced MOC (Fig. 4d and 4e), as the SS term has a stronger clockwise MOC in the
365 upper cell between 40°S to 60°S and the VV term has a stronger anti-clockwise MOC
366 in all region. The sum of the two terms also displays an enhanced anti-clockwise MOC

367 in most regions of the upper cell between 40°S to 60°S, which is in accordance with the
 368 result during 1960-1969. So, the VV term is the crucial factor leading to the eddy
 369 compensation.



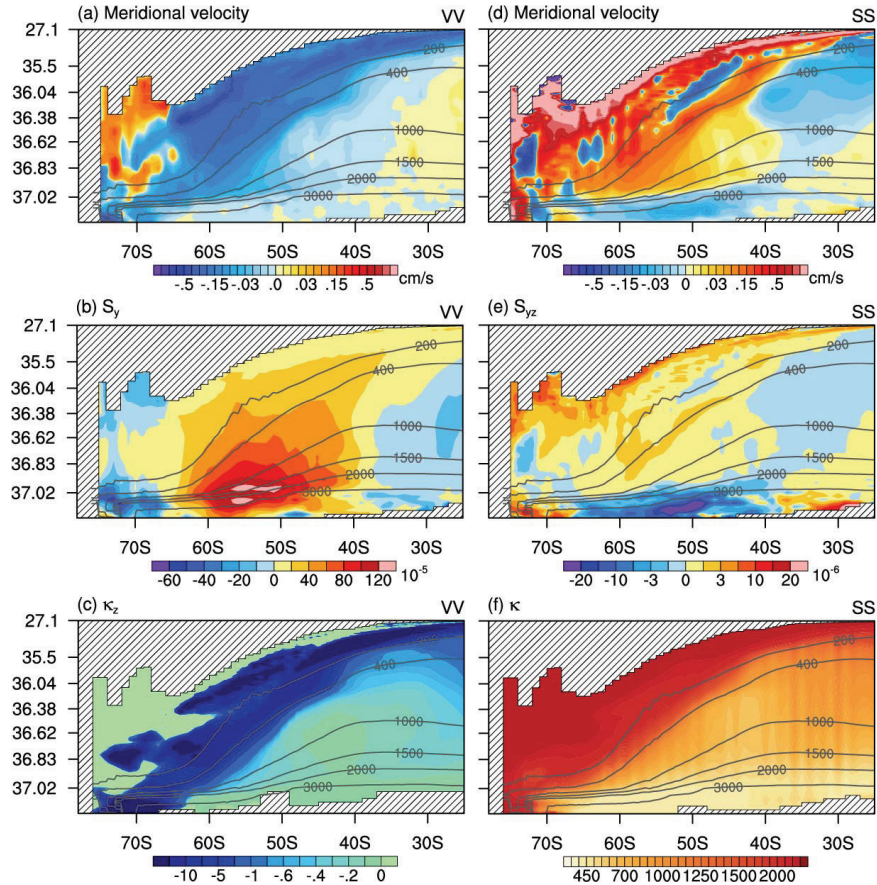
370
 371 **Figure 4.** The left panels from top to bottom are the SS, VV components of eddy-
 372 induced MOCs, and their sum during 1960-1969. The right panels are the differences
 373 between 1960-1969 and 1998-2007. The gray lines are the zonal averaged isobaths in
 374 isopycnal coordinates during the periods. (Unit: Sv)

375
 376 Even though the VV term proved to be the major contribution of the eddy compensation
 377 and its response in the FMH4D experiment, it is not clear if it is caused by the eddy
 378 transfer coefficient or the density distribution, which are the two components of VV
 379 term. The left panels in Figure 5 show the VV term-induced velocity and its two
 380 components. In terms of the circulation direction, because the vertical variation of κ
 381 (κ_z) is negative in all the regions (Fig. 5c), the sign of the VV term-induced velocity

382 (Fig. 5a) is subject to that of the meridional density slope (Fig. 5b). Besides, as the VV
383 term-induced velocity is the product of the two components and κ_z barely changes
384 under 400 m, the distribution of the VV term-induced velocity under 400 m is basically
385 dependent on the distribution of the meridional density slope. The standard deviations
386 of the absolute standardized κ_z and meridional density slope under 400 m are 0.39 and
387 0.83 respectively, which also substantiate that finding.

388

389 The role of the components in the SS term-induced velocity is different from that in the
390 VV term-induced velocity. The circulation direction of the SS term-induced velocity
391 (Fig. 5d) is also determined by the meridional density slope, because the sign of the
392 eddy transfer coefficient is positive in all regions (Fig. 5f). However, the strength
393 structure of the SS term-induced velocity is mostly dependent on the structure of the
394 eddy transfer coefficient, rather than the vertical variation of the meridional density
395 slope. Because the structure of the eddy transfer coefficient has a larger variation than
396 the vertical variation of the meridional density slope, and the standard deviation of the
397 absolute standardized vertical variation of the meridional density slope is 0.43, while
398 that of eddy transfer coefficient is 0.80.



399

400 **Figure 5.** The left panels are the VV term-induced velocity and its two components, the
 401 meridional density slope (S_y) and the vertical variation of κ (κ_z). The right panels
 402 show the SS term-induced velocity and its two components, the vertical variation of the
 403 meridional density slope (S_{yz}) and κ . The gray lines represent the isobaths in isopycnal
 404 coordinates. The units for the velocity, S_{yz} , κ_z and κ are cm/s, m^{-1} , ms^{-1} and $m^2 s^{-1}$,
 405 respectively.

406

407 4.2 The attribution of the response

408 As Figures 4d and 4e show, the responses of the VV term and SS term both have
 409 corresponding intensifications over a multidecadal scale. However, it is unclear if the

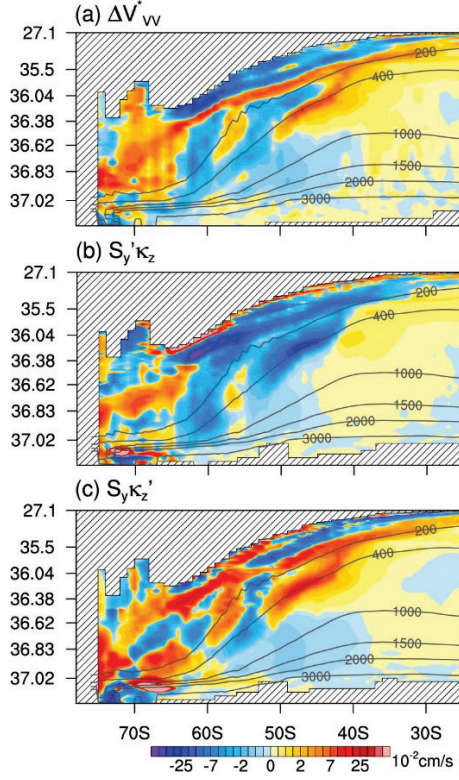
410 multidecadal responses come from the response of eddy transfer coefficient or the
 411 response of the density slope.

412

413 The response of the VV term-induced velocity can be decomposed as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 414 \quad \Delta v_{VV}^* &= v_{1998-2007}^* - v_{1960-1969}^* \\
 415 &= (S + S')(\kappa_z + \kappa'_z) - S\kappa_z \\
 416 &= S'\kappa_z + S\kappa'_z + S'\kappa'_z \quad (10)
 \end{aligned}$$

417 where Δv_{VV}^* is the response between 1998-2007 and 1960-1969; S and κ_z represent
 418 the meridional density slope and the vertical variation of the eddy transfer coefficient
 419 during 1960-1969, respectively; and S' and κ'_z are the responses between 1998-2007
 420 and 1960-1969 for S and κ_z . Thus, the response of the VV term-induced velocity
 421 consists of $S'\kappa_z$, $S\kappa'_z$ and $S'\kappa'_z$. And $S'\kappa'_z$ is a second order small quantity, which
 422 means $S'\kappa_z$ and $S\kappa'_z$ are the two major factors attributed to the response. When
 423 comparing the response of the VV term-induced velocity with its two factors (Fig. 6),
 424 it is clear that $S\kappa'_z$ is the dominant factor, because the pattern and value of $S\kappa'_z$ are
 425 closer to those of the VV term-induced velocity. Even though $S'\kappa_z$ decrease the value
 426 of the response above 400 m, it doesn't change the direction or the pattern of the
 427 circulation. This result also indicates that the response of the eddy transfer coefficient
 428 makes the major contribution to the response of the VV term-induced velocity.



429

430 **Figure 6.** The top panel is the difference of the VV term-induced velocity between
 431 1960-1969 and 1998-2007. The middle panel is the product of the difference of the
 432 meridional density slope between the two decades and the vertical variation of κ
 433 during 1960-1969. The bottom panel is the product of the meridional density slope
 434 during 1960-1969 and the difference of the vertical variation of κ between 1998-2007
 435 and 1960-1969. The gray lines represent the isobaths in isopycnal coordinates. (Unit:
 436 cm/s)

437

438 For the SS term-induced velocity, the decomposition is as follows:

439

$$\Delta v_{SS}^* = v_{1998-2007}^* - v_{1960-1969}^*$$

440

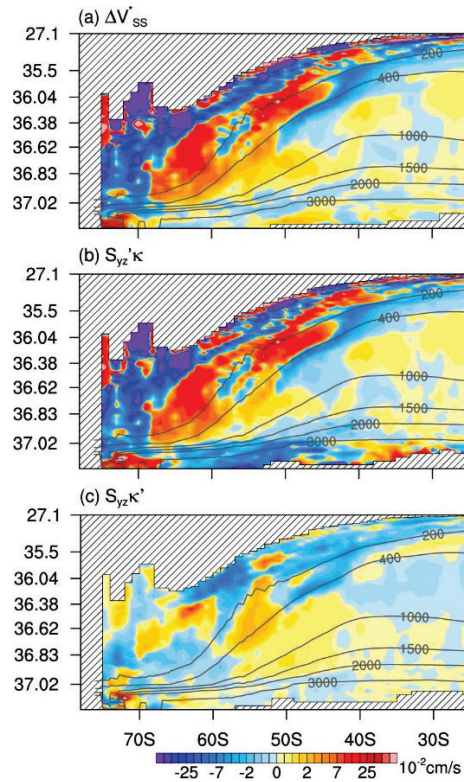
$$= (\kappa + \kappa')(S_z + S'_z) - \kappa S_z$$

441

$$= S'_z \kappa + S_z \kappa' + S'_z \kappa' \quad (11)$$

442 where Δv_{SS}^* is the response between 1998-2007 and 1960-1969; S_z and κ represent

443 the vertical variation of the meridional density slope and the eddy transfer coefficient
 444 during 1960-1969, respectively; S'_z and κ' are the responses between 1998-2007 and
 445 1960-1969 for S_z and κ . The comparison among the SS term-induced velocity and its
 446 two factors (Fig. 7) is different from the VV term-induced velocity (Fig. 6). The
 447 response of the SS term-induced velocity does not come from the response of κ , i.e.,
 448 $S_z\kappa'$. The dominant factor for the response of the SS term-induced velocity is $S'_z\kappa$,
 449 which is caused by the response of the density slope.



450

451 **Figure 7.** The top panel is the difference of the SS term-induced velocity between 1960-
 452 1969 and 1998-2007. The middle panel is the product of the difference of the vertical
 453 variation of the meridional density slope between the two decades and κ during 1960-
 454 1969. The bottom panel is the product of the vertical variation of the meridional density
 455 slope during 1960-1969 and the difference of κ from 1998-2007 to 1960-1969. The
 456 gray lines represent the isobaths in isopycnal coordinates. (Unit: cm/s)

457

458 In summary, the VV term-induced circulation enhances the compensation is because
459 the direction of the VV term-induced circulation is dominated by the density slope and
460 the response of it is controlled by the response of the eddy transfer coefficient. The SS
461 term-induced circulation is not only controlled by the feature of the density slope, but
462 also subjected to the feature of the eddy transfer coefficient. And the response of the SS
463 term comes from the density slope rather than the eddy transfer coefficient. As the
464 density slope exhibit the characteristic of the baroclinic instability and the response of
465 the eddy transfer coefficient shows the stratification-dependent temporal variability, it
466 implies that eddy parameterization should contain the features of the baroclinic
467 instability and the temporal variability of the stratification to simulating the
468 intensification of the eddy compensation.

469

470 **5. Influence on the Eulerian circulation**

471 Since the residual circulation is the result of the eddy-induced circulation and the
472 Eulerian circulation, the response of the residual circulation to the intensified westerlies
473 is not only determined by the eddy compensation but also influenced by the response
474 of the Eulerian circulation. The Eulerian (mainly Ekman) circulation is mostly driven
475 by wind stress and buoyancy forcing (Marshall and Speer, 2012), but also influenced
476 by the eddy transfer coefficient indirectly. Differences of zonal mean wind stress peak
477 between 1960-1969 and 1998-2007 from all the five experiments are 0.04Pa, but the

478 responses of the Eulerian MOC from the EG, K500 and FMH4D experiments have the
 479 smaller value of 4.01, 4.19 and 4.33 Sv, while the responses from K1000 and FMH3D
 480 are 4.44 and 4.59 Sv, respectively (Table. 2). With the same wind stress forcing in all
 481 the five CORE-II experiments, differences among their Eulerian MOC persist, which
 482 may due to the indirect effect of the eddy transfer coefficient.

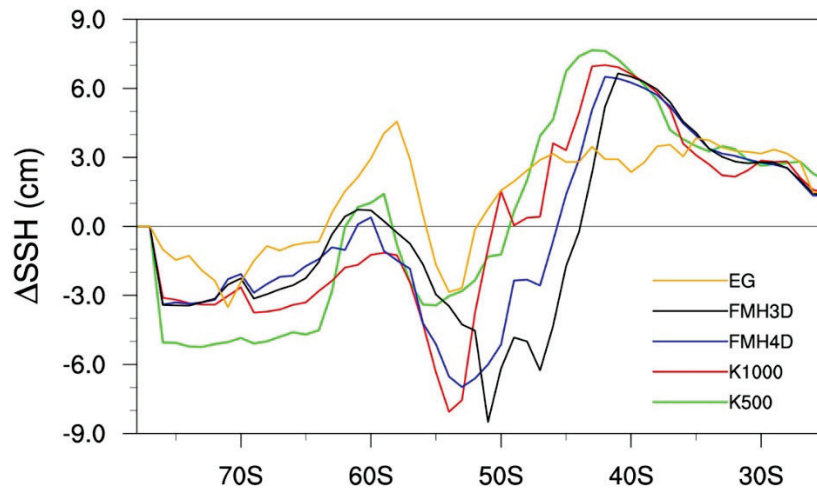
483 **Table 3.** *The Minimum and Maximum of the SSH Difference Between 1960-1969 and*
 484 *1998-2007 (Δ SSH), and the Maximum Meridional Gradient of Δ SSH. (Unit: cm)*

Experiments	Minimum of ΔSSH	Maximum of ΔSSH	Maximum gradient of ΔSSH
K500	-5.24	7.66	12.9
K1000	-8.06	7.01	15.07
FMH3D	-8.51	6.65	15.16
FMH4D	-6.99	6.51	13.50
EG	-3.51	4.56	8.07

485

486 Because the Eulerian MOC is driven by the meridional pressure gradient caused by
 487 westerlies and the buoyancy forcing in the Southern Ocean, and the sea surface height
 488 (SSH) can reflect the meridional pressure gradient, SSH is analyzed to exhibit how eddy
 489 transfer coefficient impacts the response of the Eulerian MOC. Figure 8 displays the
 490 differences of zonal mean SSH between 1960-1969 and 1998-2007 (Δ SSH) from all
 491 five experiments. There is an obvious enhancement in their meridional gradient, since
 492 SSH increases between 45°S and 30°S and decreases at the south of 45°S. However,
 493 Table 3 shows the differences among the five experiments in regard to the details. The
 494 minimum of Δ SSH in the EG, K500 and FMH4D experiments is larger than other two

495 experiments and the maximum of Δ SSH is smaller, which leads to smaller meridional
 496 Δ SSH gradients in the EG, K500 and FMH4D experiments. That smaller meridional
 497 Δ SSH gradient means a smaller intensified meridional pressure gradient, which is in
 498 accordance with the response strengths of the Eulerian MOC.



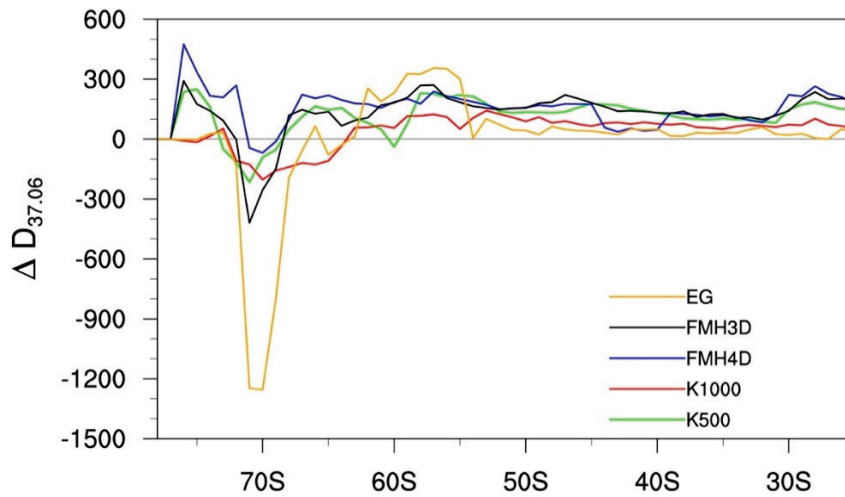
499
 500 **Figure 8.** The differences between 1960-1969 and 1998-2007 of the zonal-averaged
 501 SSH (Δ SSH). The zonal average is first applied to the positive and negative differences,
 502 respectively; then the sum of zonal-averaged positive and negative differences is the
 503 Δ SSH, avoiding the off-set of the positive and negative anomalies in the same latitude.
 504 The orange, black, blue, red, and green lines represent the results for the EG, FMH3D,
 505 FMH4D, K1000, and K500 experiments, respectively. (Unit: cm)

506
 507 Since SSH has a corresponding relationship with the thermocline in the tropic Pacific
 508 due to the wind-driven circulation, it is reasonable to consider the influence of the
 509 density distribution on SSH in the Southern Ocean. Figure 9 shows the differences of
 510 zonal mean 1037.06 kg/m^3 depth between 1960-1969 and 1998-2007 (denoted by
 511 $\Delta D_{37.06}$) in all the five experiments. It also exhibits a similar intensified meridional

512 gradient, as the 1037.06 kg/m^3 isopycnal decreases near 70°S , but increases at the
 513 northern region of the Southern Ocean. For the differences among the five experiments
 514 (Table. 4), the meridional density gradient is not consistent with the ΔSSH gradient,
 515 which should agree with ΔSSH if the Eulerian circulation is totally wind-driven. That
 516 inconsistency implies the density slope also make contribution the response of the
 517 Eulerian circulation, as the maximal meridional gradient of $\Delta D_{37.06}$ in FMH4D
 518 experiment is smallest, which decreases the response of the meridional pressure
 519 gradient and the enhancement of the Eulerian MOC.

520 **Table 4.** *The Minimum and Maximum of the Difference of 1037.06 kg/m^3 Depth*
 521 *Between 1960-1969 and 1998-2007 (ΔD), and the Maximum Meridional Gradient of*
 522 *ΔD . (Unit: m)*

Experiments	Minimum of ΔD	Maximum of ΔD	Maximum gradient of ΔD
K500	-215.87	229.40	445.27
K1000	-203.29	142.20	345.49
FMH3D	-418.85	270.43	689.28
FMH4D	-68.75	264.62	333.37
EG	-1254.76	355.65	1610.41

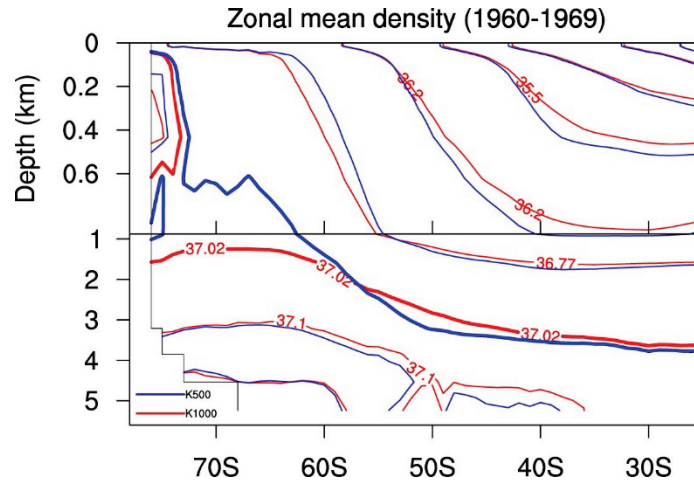


523

524 **Figure 9.** The differences of the zonal-averaged 1037.06 kg/m^3 depth between 1960-
 525 1969 and 1998-2007, and the zonal average is same as that in Figure 8. The orange,
 526 black, blue, red, and green lines represent the results for the EG, FMH3D, FMH4D,
 527 K1000, and K500 experiments, respectively. (Unit: m)

528

529 That relationship among the Eulerian MOC, SSH and density in the FMH4D
 530 experiment suggests that the eddy transfer coefficient impacts the Eulerian MOC
 531 through the density, which is affected by the eddy-induced heat and salinity advection
 532 dominated by the eddy transfer coefficient. Figure 10 shows the zonal mean density
 533 distribution from the K500 and K1000 experiments during the same period from 1960-
 534 1969, which indicates that larger values of eddy transfer coefficient can slump the
 535 density slope in the meridional direction and decrease the meridional gradient, as the
 536 density decreases in the south and increases in the north. Therefore, after the same
 537 period, the decrease of the meridional density gradient from the K1000 experiment is
 538 larger than that from the K500 experiment, which leads to a smaller enhancement of
 539 the meridional density gradient.



540

541 **Figure 10.** The zonal mean density layers during 1960-1969. The blue lines represent
 542 the K500 experiment and the red lines represent the K1000 experiment.

543

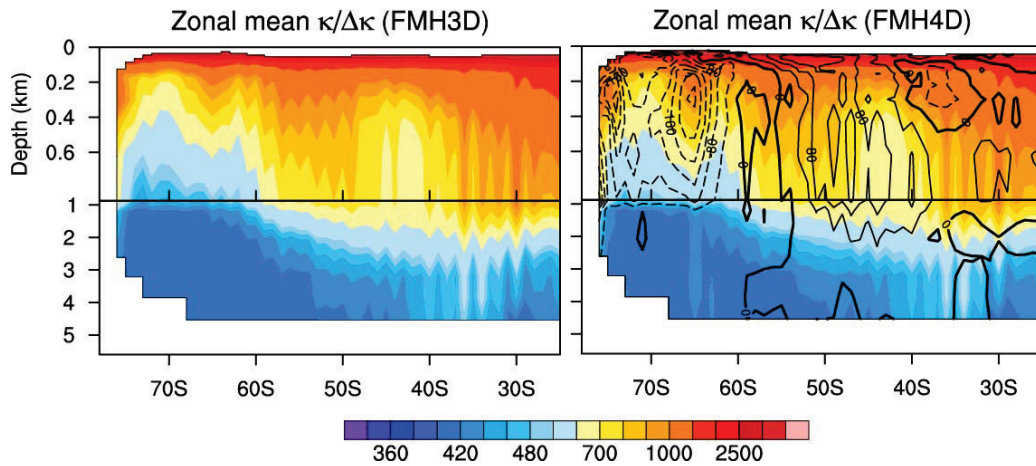
544 For the FMH3D experiment, it has a smaller value than the K500 experiment under
 545 1000 m (Fig. 11a), which leads to a smaller decrease in the meridional density gradient.

546 That distribution of the eddy transfer coefficient leads to a greater intensification of the
 547 meridional density gradient in the FMH3D experiment than that in the K500 experiment.

548 However, for the FMH4D experiment, there is an obvious increase of eddy transfer
 549 coefficient near the northern pycnocline over time (Fig. 11b), while the eddy transfer

550 coefficient barely changes in the south. The larger eddy transfer coefficient in the north
 551 lifts the density slope, leading to a smaller meridional density gradient than that in the

552 FMH3D experiment.



553

554 **Figure 11.** The left panel is the zonal mean eddy transfer coefficient in the FMH3D
 555 experiment. The shaded area in the right panel is the zonal mean eddy transfer
 556 coefficient in the FMH4D experiment and the contours are the difference between
 557 1960-1969 and 1998-2007. The solid lines represent positive anomaly and the dashed
 558 lines represent negative anomaly. (Unit: $m^2 s^{-1}$)

559

560 Above all, the larger value of the eddy transfer coefficient and its increase with time in
 561 the FMH4D experiment leads to the weakest meridional density gradient among the
 562 five experiments. The corresponding weakest response of the SSH meridional gradient
 563 makes the response of the Eulerian MOC in the FMH4D experiment the weakest.

564

565 **6. Discussion and Summary**

566 By comparing several coarse resolution ocean models forced by the CORE-II
 567 atmospheric fields, Downes et al. (2018) showed that the Southern Ocean MOC decadal
 568 trends are controlled by changes in surface buoyancy fluxes and the choice of eddy
 569 parameterization. Furthermore, Gent (2016) surmised that a spatially and temporally

570 varying eddy transfer coefficient in the GM parametrization is necessary to simulate
571 the response of the Southern Ocean to enhanced westerlies in non-eddy-resolving ocean
572 models. In this study, we quantify the influence of five eddy transfer coefficients on the
573 response of Southern Ocean MOCs to intensified westerlies in one non-eddy-resolving
574 ocean model driven by CORE-II forcing. We show that the experiment with a spatially
575 and temporally varying coefficient based on the buoyancy frequency has the closest
576 Southern Ocean MOC response when compared to the eddy-resolving numerical
577 simulation used as a reference. A spatial and temporal variability in κ leads to stronger
578 eddy compensation and a weaker enhancement of the Eulerian MOC, with both the
579 eddy-induced and Eulerian MOC contributing to the residual MOC.

580

581 To quantify the impact of the eddy transfer coefficient's spatial and temporal variability,
582 the ratio between the responses of eddy-induced MOC and Eulerian MOC from the five
583 experiments are computed. The constant eddy transfer coefficient cases (K500 and
584 K1000) have ratios of 1.7% and 4.1%, respectively, while that the ratio for the spatially
585 variant (FMH3D) and spatio-temporally variant (FMH4D) cases are 5.9% and 14.5%,
586 respectively. This finding implies that the spatial variation in κ plays an indispensable
587 role in the eddy compensation and that the temporal variability is even more efficient
588 in simulating the response of eddy compensation in the Southern Ocean. This is because
589 the influence of spatial variability takes up 40.7% of the total contribution versus 59.3%
590 for the temporal variability.

591

592 By decomposing the eddy-induced MOC into the VV and SS terms, which are based
593 on the vertical variation of the eddy transfer coefficient and the spatial structure of the
594 coefficient, respectively, the eddy compensation from the FMH4D experiment with the
595 stratification-dependent eddy transfer coefficient can be traced to changes in the vertical
596 derivative of the coefficient rather than its spatial structure. A further decomposition of
597 the response of the VV term-induced MOC from the FMH4D experiment is conducted.
598 It shows the intensified VV term's eddy compensation is primarily attributed to the
599 response of the eddy transfer coefficient, which also emphasizes the role of the temporal
600 variability of the coefficient.

601

602 Additionally, the eddy transfer coefficient also influences the response of the Southern
603 Ocean residual MOC through its Eulerian component. In the FMH4D experiment, the
604 increased meridional gradient of κ during the 1998-2007 period over 1960-1969
605 decreases the meridional gradient of the density slope. Consequently, the meridional
606 SSH gradient also decreases, leading to a weaker response of the Eulerian circulation.

607

608 The present results show that a stratification-based parameterization that allows for
609 spatial and temporal variability in the eddy-induced MOC is a good option for
610 effectively simulating the response of the Southern Ocean circulation to climate change
611 in coarse ocean models. Even though the Southern Ocean circulation response in the
612 FMH4D experiment is close to that of the high-resolution ocean model, it is unclear
613 how the strong anisotropy in the Southern Ocean should be taken into account when

614 deriving the eddy transfer coefficient (Gent and Smith, 2004; Abernathey et al., 2013).
615 Additional research on how anisotropy in the eddy transfer coefficient would affect the
616 Southern Ocean circulation response is needed.

617

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625

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